

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 34-53 remain in this application. Claims 34, 43, 44, and 51 have been amended. New claim 53 has been added.

1. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In view of the amendment to claims 34 and 51, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 34-41, 43, 44, 46, 49, 51 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ogawa.

Claims 34 and 51 have been amended to require that the silica-containing article be one which has not yet been drawn into an optical fiber. Applicants submit that these amendments clearly distinguish over Ogawa, which discloses a coated optical fiber.

In view of the amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 34-38, 41, 43, 46 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2-258643.

Claim 34 has been amended to remove "acrylate polymer". In view of this amendment, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 102(b) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

New claim 53 has been added, which is essentially the acrylate polymer and polyvinyl alcohol options of original claim 34, and in addition an additional limitation has been added that the protective layer be water soluble. Applicants submit that no such product is mentioned or suggested in any of the prior art documents cited.

Because claim 50 does not appear to be rejected, Applicants assume that claim 50 is in allowable form.

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Response dated: December 11, 2008
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Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicant believes that a one month extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should applicant be in error, applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Robert L. Carlson at 607-974-3502.

Respectfully submitted,

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